

# Leadership and Innovations in Juvenile Court

**Hon. Jason Rossell**  
Kenosha County Circuit Court  
Kenosha

## JV Court is the Original Problem Solving Court

- The role of the Juvenile Court Judge involves leadership
- Innovation distinguishes between a leader and a follower.
  - ✓ Steve Jobs, Apple Founder
- Finding grants, learning about new programs, bringing together teams of stakeholders

# Adoption Day

- A special day set aside for adoptions and celebrations of new families
- Jockey Backpack program  
<https://www.jockeybeingfamily.com/backpack-program/>



# Reunification Events

- Kenosha sponsors a picnic for reunified families, social workers and heroes
- Waukesha will have a panel of lived experts share their experience



## THROUGH THEIR EYES: A Parent's Perspective on Reunification Efforts in Waukesha County

Join us for an informative and heartfelt event as Waukesha County Health and Human Services and the Waukesha County Juvenile Court come together for a vital discussion.



**JUNE 12TH, 2025**

FROM 1:00 - 3:00PM  
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER - 1621 WOODBURN RD, WAUKESHA

### EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

A panel of lived-experts will share their personal experiences in the child welfare and juvenile court systems. Discover what helped them gain reunification, the challenges they faced, and insights to assist families on their journey.



For more information: [jjroctor@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:jjroctor@waukeshacounty.gov) (262) 548-7272

## Family Drug Treatment Court

- Wisconsin has 11 family drug treatment courts that incorporate drug court principals to CHIPS court families
    - ▶ Eau Claire and St. Croix counties recently received DCF grant funding to establish family drug treatment courts
  - Barron County has 12-18 parents who attend court every 2 weeks and work through 5 milestones to graduate
    - ▶ The Court provides AODA treatment and counseling, mental health services, health services, recovery coaching, parent education, service coordination and a CPS worker specifically assigned to FRC
- ✓ <https://vimeo.com/936829140/c202cf063d?share=copy>

## Parents Supporting Parent

- Jefferson, Door and Rock counties established a Parents Supporting Parents program
  - ▶ DCF provided grant funding to Jefferson and Rock counties
- Following the Iowa Parent Partner Model, the program matches CHIPS parents with a parent partner who has lived experience in the CPS system and “gets it”
  - ▶ Parent partners have successfully been reunified with their children and had their CHIPS and CPS cases closed



## Permanency Project

- Backlogged TPR referrals were lengthening time in foster care
- One Prosecutor, two Judges and limited parents counsel meant average of only 42 TPR case per year
- Added one Judge, county added a LTE Prosecutor, and got commitments from SPD for counsel
- Eliminated backlog even during Covid in 3 years

## The Book Nook

- Judge Kristin Cafferty in Racine County and Judge Jerilyn Dietz in Manitowoc County have established libraries for children in CHIPS cases.

